

Application No. 09/899,789
Amdt. Dated February 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 5, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please amend page 8, paragraphs 5 and 6 to:

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the piston element shown in FIG. 3. ~~is a radial cross-sectional view of the cylindrical sleeve shown in FIG. 3.~~

FIG. 5 is a radial cross-sectional view of the cylindrical sleeve shown in FIG. 3. ~~is a top plan view of the piston element shown in FIG. 3.~~

2. Please amend page 11, second paragraph to:

In FIG. 3 is shown a variation of the above embodiments which ~~offers~~ differs therefrom only in the provision of an interdigitating geometry of peripheral elements 244 of piston 232 with that of the interior surface 246 of sleeve 210. In other words, to assure a more reliable and precise piston-like motion of piston 232 relative to the interior of sleeve 210, there is provided a plurality of longitudinal channels 250 that are complementary to radial projections 252 of the piston 232. This design, taken in combination with an axial width in a range of one to five centimeters of the piston 232, assures complete stability of the piston 232 relative to sleeve 210. The areas of upper entry and lower exit to sleeve 210 may, in the nature of the embodiment of FIG. 1A, be provided with thread means 238 which are proportioned for complementary receipt of thread means 236 of plug 220 of base 216. A similar strategy may be employed with respect to bottom base (not shown) of the embodiment of FIG. 3 if a tear-off or pull-off base release is not employed.

3. Please amend page 12, first paragraph to:

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FIG. ~~[[4]]~~ 5 is a radial cross-sectional view of FIG. 3 taken along Line 4-4 thereof, while FIG. ~~[[5]]~~ 4 is a plan axial view of the wafer-like piston 232 shown in the exploded view of FIG. 3. FIG. 6 is an assembly view of FIG. 3 in which the sidewall of sleeve 210 is shown with a larger annular width, as might be appropriate if the container is used as an insulator. Also shown are optional sealing strips 226 and 228.